March 5, 6 1999

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive Council met on March 5 and 6 in St. John's. This edition of Executive Notes is designed to provide you with a summary of major decisions and discussions that occurred at this meeting. For further information on any of these issues please contact any member of Provincial Executive or the NLTA staff person as indicated.

Association Priorities

Provincial Executive was updated on recent meetings with officials from the Department of Education and the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association re. the concerns with Pathways implementation, and concerns as outlined in our report, The Crisis in Student Support. The two motions from the recent Joint Council meeting are being actioned and a letter has been sent to every school from the President to let teachers know we are aware of their concerns.

The Executive Director and the President met with the Deputy Minister of Education, Wayne Green, and the Assistant Deputy Minister, Wayne Oakley, who were given a copy of The Crisis in Student Support, and the relevant motions from the last Joint Council meeting. The urgency of the situation was relayed to them and a meeting was requested with the Minister of Education.

A meeting with the Executive of the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association informed them of our concerns re. the Pathways implementation. Our lawyers have also been consulted to discuss the legal ramifications of what is occurring with Pathways implementation and the possible options should legal action be necessary.

A meeting with the Minister of Education took place on March 4. It was agreed that a work group would be put in place immediately to re-examine the Pathways implementation. This will be made up of people from the Department of Education and practitioners in the field to identify the problems and find workable remedies.

Although Pathways implementation was the main focus of the meeting with the Minister, the discussion also involved teacher allocations and administrators. There has been no decision yet re. teacher allocations and the Minister agreed that the committee re. administrator concerns was to stay in place with an open mandate for discussions.

The topics of professional development restructuring, responding to the membership and teacher certification were also discussed during Provincial Executive's update on Association priorities. There are various reports and discussion papers being finalized on these topics and more information will be forthcoming.

For further information contact Brendan Doyle, President, or Wayne Noseworthy,

Executive Director.

Labrador Benefits Negotiations
A meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 11 and Friday, March 12 re. the Labrador Benefits Package. It is expected that there will be a response re. the Opening Proposals that had been presented to the Employer Negotiating Team in January.

For further information contact Edward Hancock or Perry Downey, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Resolutions to Convention 1999
Provincial Executive reviewed 103 Resolutions to Convention 1999, as well as proposed NLTA Act and By-law changes. The resolutions and proposed NLTA Act and By-law changes will be forwarded to all delegates with the Convention kit.

For further information contact Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

Business from Standing Committees
Most of the business of the NLTA Standing Committees dealt with resolutions to Convention 1999. The following decision, however, is the result of a recommendation from the Membership Benefits and Services Committee:

- Change the nomination procedure for Allan Bishop Award to read: " Nominations may come from branches, special interest councils, Joint Council or Provincial Executive and are open to any active or life member of NLTA except that ". Section 3.a.iii would be deleted which reads: "a maximum of one nomination may be submitted by each branch or special interest council."

For further information contact Winston Carter, Chairperson, Membership Benefits and Services Committee or Lloyd Hobbs, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Teacher Certification
The Ad Hoc Committee on Teacher Certification has considered new directions for teacher certification and Provincial Executive has requested that the committee get further input from the field. Consultation with the membership will take place on New Directions for Teacher Certification: A Proposed Model for Self-Governance, and feedback will be reported to Provincial Executive at the next regularly scheduled meeting in June.

For further information contact Winston Carter or Mike Luedee, Co-chairs, Certification Review Committee, or Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

Other Business
A request was granted for the Labrador North Branch to change its name to "Lake Melville Branch".
The President, Executive Director, and Communications Officer will determine appropriate action to the request that we boycott CBC interviews during the current strike.

There was a concern raised about teachers being summoned for jury duty and the activities of teachers should the jury be recessed for periods of time. If teachers have concerns as to how they are directed by their Boards during such times, they should

contact an administrative officer in the Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Teacher Health Assistance Plan (THAP)
The Benefits and Economic Services Division is in the process of sending information to teachers who may have exhausted their sick leave benefits. The information explains that there are other options available once sick leave runs out. It is advantageous to the teacher to let the Benefits and Economic Services Division know in plenty of time before the sick leave actually runs out.

For further information contact Barbara Lewis, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for June 11 and 12 in St. John's. For further information contact Geralyn Costello Assistant to the President.